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FROM: MATTHEW C. LOPPNOW — (847) 523-2585
(SENDER'S NAME) (EXTENSION)

RE: 09/611,633

TOTAL NUMBER OF PAGE(S) 25 (INCLUDING THIS PAGE)

Personal Communications Sector
600 North U.S. Highway 45, AN 475
Libertyville, IL 60048
Phone: (847) 523-2322 Facsimile: (847) 523-2350

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Matthew C. Loppnow

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: GOLDBERG, Steven J. EXAMINER: Yang, C.

SERIAL NO.: 09/611,633 GROUP: 2635

FILED: July 7, 2000 CASE NO.: PF01960NA

ENTITLED: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR TRANSMITTING AND DECODING PRE-PROGRAMMED MESSAGES

Motorola, Inc.
Intellectual Property Department
600 North U.S. Highway 45
Libertyville, IL 60048

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.192(c)

MS Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Further to the Notice of Appeal filed on August 11, 2004, Applicant submits the present Appeal Brief.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The real party in interest is, Motorola, Inc.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no related appeals or interferences.

III. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-21 are pending. Claims1-21 are rejected and are the subject of the present appeal.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

No amendments were filed subsequent to final rejection.

V. SUMMARY OF INVENTION

The inventions are drawn generally to a method and apparatus for transmitting and decoding pre-programmed messages (page 1, lines 7-8, Fig. 6 and Fig. 7). As illustrated in Fig. 4, a wireless communication unit is pre-programmed with a plurality of orthogonal codes (604) corresponding to a plurality of canned messages (602, 402). The plurality of orthogonal codes are preferably chosen such that when a group of different canned messages are received

simultaneously by the wireless processing device 104, thereby producing an interference symbol pattern, the interference symbol pattern provides a non-zero probability of correctly decoding at least some of the group, and a substantially zero probability of erroneously decoding a canned message not in the group (page. 5, lines 21-29). A triggering event can be detected by the wireless communication unit (404, page 5, lines 29-31). The wireless communication unit selects one of the canned messages to be sent in response to the triggering event (406, page 5, line 31 - page 6, line 1). An orthogonal code corresponding to the selected message is transmitted by the wireless communication unit (408, page 6, lines 1-3).

VI. ISSUES

1. Whether claim 1 is patentable under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting over claim 1 of Goldberg (U.S. Patent No. 5,530,437) and LaPorta et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,918,158).

2. Whether claims 2, 10, 16, and 19-21 are patentable under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting over claims 1, 8, 9, and 12-14 of Goldberg.

3. Whether claims 1-4, 10-12, and 15-21 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Goldberg and LaPorta et al.

4. Whether claims 1-10, 12, and 14-21 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Goldberg and Reis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,973,613).

VII. GROUPING OF CLAIMS

Claims 1, 2, 10, 16, and 19-21 stand or fall together regarding the rejection thereof under judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting.

Claims 1-4, 10-12, and 15-21 stand or fall together regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Goldberg and LaPorta et al..

Claims 1-10, 12, and 14-21 stand or fall together regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Goldberg and Reis et al.

VIII. ARGUMENT

Examiner's Allegation

Claim 1 stands rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting over claim 1 of Goldberg and LaPorta et al.

Claims 2, 10, 16, and 19-21 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness type double patenting over claims 1, 8, 9, and 12-14 of Goldberg.

Claims 1-4, 10-12, and 15-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Goldberg and LaPorta et al.,

Claims 1-10, 12, and 14-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Goldberg and Reis et al.

Applicants' Argument

Applicant asserts these rejections are deficient because none of the Office Actions have met the burden of establishing a prima facie case of obviousness. In particular, the Office Actions have not provided proper motivation to combine the reference teachings to teach the claimed invention. Because there is no motivation to combine the reference teachings to teach the claimed invention, both the double patenting rejections and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 are deficient.

More particularly, no reference or combination of references disclose any benefit or deficiency in LePorta et al. or Ries et al. that would necessitate one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Goldberg to obtain the claimed invention or vice versa. The deficiencies and/or benefits are also not provided by knowledge of one of ordinary skill in the art.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the reference or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine the reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art references, when combined, must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure (MPEP 2142). The prior art must suggest the desirability of the claimed invention (MPEP 2143.01).

Also, according to MPEP § 804, a double patenting rejection of the obviousness-type is "analogous to [a failure to meet] the nonobviousness requirement of 35 U.S.C. 103" except that the patent principally underlying the double patenting rejection is not considered prior art. In re Braithwaite, 379 F.2d 594, 154 USPQ 29 (CCPA 1967). Therefore, any analysis

employed in an obviousness-type double patenting rejection parallels the guidelines for analysis of a 35 U.S.C. 103 obviousness determination. In re Braat, 937 F.2d 589, 19 USPQ2d 1289 (Fed. Cir. 1991); In re Longi, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985).

The October 3, 2003 Office Action has not provided any benefit or deficiency in LePorta et al. that would necessitate one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Goldberg to obtain the claimed invention or vice versa.

The Office Action admits "Goldberg fails to teach (1) pre-programming each PCU with orthogonal codes that correspond to a plurality of canned messages, (2) each PCU detecting a triggering event that does not originate from and is not controlled by the wireless communication system; and (3) each PCU selecting and transmitting one of the plurality of canned messages in response to the triggering event," (page 8). The Office Action then alleges "it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Goldberg as taught by LaPorta because the steps of (1) pre-programming each PCU with orthogonal codes that correspond to a plurality of canned message in addition to each PCU's unique code steps, (2) detecting a triggering event that does not originate from and is not controlled by the wireless communication system, and (3) selecting and transmitting one of the plurality of canned message in response to the triggering event provide an easy way for a recipient to respond to a message with limited bandwidth usage (see LaPorta, Co. 6, lines 56-59 and Col. 13, lines 5-8) while allowing co-channel responses of multiple recipients to be received simultaneously at central controller 102 (see Goldberg, Abstract), thus conserving frequency spectrum," (pages 8-9). Applicant disagrees.

In particular, the mentioned sections of LaPorta et al. do not provide, and none of the other sections of LaPorta et al. provide motivation to combine the teachings of the two-way

messaging system disclosed in LaPorta et al. with the acknowledge-back communication system disclosed in Goldberg. Goldberg is directed to an ack-back system (col. 3, lines 55-57) and does not disclose usefulness in a system using dynamically customizable messages. LaPorta et al. is directed to a system utilizing dynamically customizable messages (col. 1, lines 10-15) and does not disclose usefulness in an ack-back system.

For example, the section cited by the Office Action, col. 6, lines 56-59, states "The user agent 12 also provides other benefits. Because messages are expanded inside the messaging network 14, the bandwidth on the uplink can be reduced, allowing bandwidth asymmetry on the wireless link." This only discloses the benefits of expanding messages from reply codes such as those discussed at col. 5, lines 36-39 and illustrated in Fig. 9. This does not disclose expanding acknowledgement responses in the acknowledge-back communication system disclosed in Goldberg. More particularly, the reply messages in LaPorta et al. are messages that are destined to be read by humans, thus they must be expanded. To the contrary, in the acknowledge-back system disclosed in Goldberg, identification bit patterns are transmitted to acknowledge receipt of a page to a central controller 102 (col. 4, lines 38, 41-43, and 51-57). These identification bit patterns are not human readable messages. Thus, there is no need to expand messages in Goldberg and col. 6, lines 56-59 does not provide motivation to combine the references.

Furthermore, col. 13, lines 5-8 does not provide motivation. This section only states, "The design of these message types is strongly influenced by the capability of the messaging device. For example, the lack of a keyboard implies that free form messages are impractical." Applicant does not understand how there could be any motivation to combine the references present in this section and the Office Action has not clarified such. Also, this section also is

only referencing the human-readable messages discussed above, and not the acknowledgement responses disclosed in Goldberg.

Additionally, the Abstract of Goldberg does not provide motivation to combine the teachings of the two-way messaging system disclosed in LaPorta et al. with the acknowledge-back communication system disclosed in Goldberg. In particular, the Abstract of Goldberg only discloses the benefits of using a bit pattern to identify a portable communication unit (PCU) when responding to a poll requesting the identities of the PCUs. This does not amount to motivation to utilize the teachings of Goldberg in the two-way wireless messaging system disclosed in LaPorta et al. More particularly, the process described in the Abstract of Goldberg is a process used in the acknowledgement-back communication system disclosed in Goldberg (col. 3, lines 55-58). There is no disclosure that the two-way messaging system disclosed in LaPorta et al. requires teachings that are used in a acknowledgement-back communication system. Thus, the Abstract of Goldberg does not provide motivation to combine the teachings of the two-way messaging system disclosed in LaPorta et al. with the acknowledge-back communication system disclosed in Goldberg. Furthermore, none of the other sections of Goldberg provide such motivation.

Accordingly, the Office Action has not provided a prima facie case of obviousness because it has not provided proper motivation to combine the teachings of the two-way messaging system disclosed in LaPorta et al. with the acknowledge-back communication system disclosed in Goldberg.

Additionally, even if the teachings of Goldberg and LaPorta et al. were combined, such a combination would not result in using a plurality of orthogonal codes corresponding to a plurality of canned message that produces an interference symbol pattern that provides a non-zero probability of correctly decoding at least some of a group of messages. In particular, the

combination of the teachings of the two references would only result in a system that uses Goldberg's bit patterns corresponding to a portable communication unit to produce an interference pattern to correctly identify a portable communication unit along with separately using LaPorta et al.'s pre-canned messages to allow user's to easily respond to questions, such as lunch choices, from other users (col. 5, lines 11-27). Thus, even if the teachings of Goldberg and LaPorta et al. were combined, such a combination would not result in the claimed invention.

Furthermore, the Office Action has also not provided any benefit or deficiency in Ries et al. that would necessitate one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Goldberg to obtain the claimed invention or vice versa.

The Office Action admits "Ries fails to teach that the codes corresponding to a plurality of canned messages are orthogonal and are chosen such that when a group of different canned messages are received simultaneously by a local cellular transceiver of wireless processing device, the interference symbol patter[n] provides a non-zero probability of correctly decoding at least some of the canned messages and a substantially zero probability of erroneously decoding a canned message not in the group," (page 15). The Office Action goes on to allege "it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Reis as taught by Goldberg because the use of the slotted ALOHA protocol and orthogonal codes enable a plurality of pagers to simultaneously transmit canned reply message on the same communications channel while enabling a local cellular transceiver to correctly identify the interfering messages, thus improving the system's functionality and efficiency." (page 16). Applicant disagrees.

In particular, the Office Action has not provided any section of Ries et al. that provides, and in fact, none of the sections of Ries et al. provide motivation to combine the

teachings of the personal messaging system using a batch collection protocol disclosed in Ries et al. with the acknowledge-back communication system disclosed in Goldberg. Goldberg is directed to an ack-back system (col. 3, lines 55-57) and does not disclose usefulness in a system using predetermined reply messages. Ries et al. is directed to a personal messaging system that let a user read a paging message and select a stored predetermined reply message (title, abstract) and does not disclose usefulness in an ack-back system.

In fact, the Office Action provides no foundation for any possible motivation to combine the teachings of Ries et al. and Goldberg. The Office Action only makes a conclusory statement regarding motivation. This does not satisfy the requirement of MPEP 2142, which requires there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the reference or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine the reference teachings. In particular, the Office Action does not cite any section of the references providing this motivation and the Office Action does not allege the motivation is in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. Thus, the Office Action provides no foundation for any possible motivation to combine the teachings of Ries et al. and Goldberg.

Accordingly, the Office Action has not provided a prima facie case of obviousness because it has not provided proper motivation to combine the teachings of the two-way messaging system disclosed in Ries et al. with the acknowledge-back communication system disclosed in Goldberg.

Additionally, even if the teachings of Goldberg and Ries et al. were combined, such a combination would not result in using a plurality of orthogonal codes corresponding to a plurality of canned message that produces an interference symbol pattern that provides a non-zero probability of correctly decoding at least some of a group of messages. In particular, the

combination of the teachings of the two references would only result in a system that uses Goldberg's bit patterns corresponding to a portable communication unit to produce an interference pattern to correctly identifying a portable communication unit along with separately using Ries et al.'s batch collection protocol to process communication signals during a batch session. Therefore, even if the teachings of Goldberg and Ries et al. were combined, such a combination would not result in the claimed invention.

Thus, there is no motivation to combine any of the references to achieve the invention claimed in independent claim 1, and similarly claimed in independent claims 11 and 16. Accordingly, both the double patenting and the obviousness rejections are deficient.

The May 13, 2004 final Office Action still has not provided any benefit in LePorta et al. that would necessitate one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Goldberg to obtain the claimed invention or vice versa. In particular, even if LePorta were combined with Goldberg, the combination does not result in the claimed invention. More particularly, the Office Action does not establish how the combination achieves the claimed plurality of orthogonal codes corresponding to a plurality of canned messages, where one of the canned messages is selected to be transmitted in response to a triggering event and one of the plurality of codes corresponding to the selected message is transmitted.

The Office Action only states, in attempting to establish motivation, the result of "an acknowledgement-back system that is able to support two-way messaging and the use of canned messages... while allowing co-channel responses of multiple recipients to be received simultaneously at central controller 102 (see Goldberg, Abstract)." If the Office Action is trying to imply the Abstract of Goldberg provides motivation to achieve a plurality of orthogonal codes corresponding to a plurality of canned messages, Applicant disagrees. In particular, the Abstract of Goldberg does not mention anything about using an orthogonal

code to correspond to a canned message. More importantly, the Abstract of Goldberg only discloses using the teachings of Goldberg to "correctly identify a portion of a group" of at least two portable communication units responding to a system generated poll. Thus, there is no teaching or motivation in the Abstract, or anywhere else, in Goldberg to use the claimed orthogonal codes to correspond to a plurality of canned messages. Furthermore, various other techniques can be used for messaging to avoid collisions of actual messages in communication systems, such as code division multiple access and time division multiple access. Thus, aside from there being no motivation to do so, there would be absolutely no need to use the teachings of Goldberg to avoid any collisions between the messages of LePorta.

In fact, the combination of LePorta and Goldberg would only result in using the teachings LePorta for sending stored messages while using the teachings of Goldberg for identifying respondents to a system-generated poll.

Thus, the Office Action still has not provided any benefit in LePorta et al. that would necessitate one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Goldberg to obtain the claimed invention or vice versa.

The Office Action also still has not provided any benefit in Reis that would necessitate one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Goldberg to obtain the claimed invention or vice versa. In particular, even if Reis were combined with Goldberg, the combination does not result in the claimed invention. More particularly, the Office Action does not establish how the combination achieves the claimed plurality of orthogonal codes corresponding to a plurality of canned messages, where one of the canned messages is selected to be transmitted in response to a triggering event and one of the plurality of codes corresponding to the selected message is transmitted.

The Office Action only states ,"It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Reis as taught by Goldberg because orthogonal codes enable a plurality of pagers to simultaneously transmit IDs or canned reply messages on the same communication channel (see Goldberg's Abstract)..." Applicant disagrees with this mischaracterization of Goldberg's Abstract. In particular, there is absolutely no disclosure of simultaneously transmitting canned reply messages in the Abstract of Goldberg. As discussed above, the Abstract of Goldberg does not mention anything about using an orthogonal code to correspond to a canned message. More importantly, the Abstract of Goldberg only discloses using the teachings of Goldberg to "correctly identify a portion of a group" of at least two portable communication units responding to a system generated poll. Thus, there is no teaching or motivation in the Abstract, or anywhere else, in Goldberg to use the claimed orthogonal codes to correspond to a plurality of canned messages. Furthermore, various other techniques can be used for messaging to avoid collisions of actual messages in communication systems, such as code division multiple access and time division multiple access. Thus, aside from there being no motivation to do so, there would be absolutely no need to use the teachings of Goldberg to avoid any collisions between the messages of Reis.

In fact, the combination of Reis and Goldberg would only result in using the teachings Reis for sending canned reply messages while using the teachings of Goldberg for identifying respondents to a system-generated poll.

Thus, the Office Action still has not provided any benefit in Reis that would necessitate one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Goldberg to obtain the claimed invention or vice versa.

Furthermore, Applicants traverse the mischaracterization of Goldberg's Abstract. In particular, the Office Action states "Gold[berg], likewise provide motivation in the Abstract for using orthogonal codes that correspond to the canned messages since the use of orthogonal codes enable a plurality of messages to be received simultaneously, thereby conserving frequency spectrum." Applicant disagrees. The Abstract of Goldberg does not mention anything about canned messages. In fact, Applicant traverses the Office Action's attempts to take Applicant's own realization of the benefits of the claimed combination and to pass the combination off as obvious without a foundation for motivation in any of the references. There is absolutely no teaching or motivation in the references of using the claimed orthogonal codes to represent canned messages and the Office Action has not asserted such is well known.

Thus, the rejections are deficient because none of the Office Actions have met the burden of establishing a prima facie case of obviousness. In particular, the Office Actions have not provided proper motivation to combine the reference teachings to teach the claimed invention. Because there is no motivation to combine the reference teachings to teach the claimed invention, both the double patenting rejections and the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 are deficient.

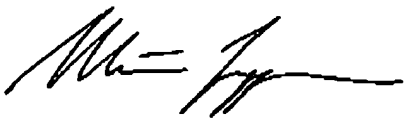
Therefore, kindly reverse and vacate the rejections of Claims 1-21, with instructions for the Examiner to allow Claims 1-21 to issue as a United States Patent.

CONCLUSION

In view of the discussion above, the Claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. Kindly withdraw any rejections and objections and allow this application to issue as a United States Patent without further delay.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct the amount of $340 for filing a brief in support of an appeal and any fees arising as a result of this Appeal Brief or any other communication from or to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2117.

Respectfully submitted,



Matthew C. Loppnow
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 45,314

Phone No. (847) 523-2585

Dated: May 23, 2003

Fax No. (847) 523-2350
Please send correspondence to:
Motorola, Inc.
Intellectual Property
600 North U.S. Highway 45
Libertyville, IL 60048

IX. APPENDIX

1. A transmission method in a wireless communication system, the transmission method comprising the steps of:

pre-programming each of a plurality of wireless communication units with a plurality of orthogonal codes corresponding to a plurality of canned messages, the plurality of orthogonal codes chosen such that when a group of different canned messages are received simultaneously by a wireless processing device of the wireless communication system, thereby producing an interference symbol pattern, the interference symbol pattern provides a non-zero probability of correctly decoding at least some of said group, and a substantially zero probability of erroneously decoding a canned message not in said group;

detecting, by a portion of the plurality of wireless communication units, a triggering event that does not originate from, and is not controlled by, the wireless communication system;

selecting, by each of said portion, one of the plurality of canned messages as a selected message to be transmitted in response to the triggering event; and

transmitting, by each of said portion, one of the plurality of orthogonal codes corresponding to the selected message during a randomly-selected slotted-aloha time slot.

2. The transmission method of claim 1, further comprising in the wireless processing device the steps of:

receiving at least two different canned messages sent simultaneously during a single time slot, thereby producing the interference symbol pattern; and

decoding at least some of the at least two different canned messages from the interference symbol pattern.

3. The transmission method of claim 1, further comprising in the wireless processing device the steps of:

receiving at least two identical canned messages sent simultaneously during a single time slot, thereby producing a reinforced symbol pattern; and

decoding, from the reinforced symbol pattern, one of the plurality of canned messages received.

4. The transmission method of claim 1, wherein the transmitting step further comprises the step of transmitting, by some of said portion, additional data along with the one of the plurality of orthogonal codes.

5. The transmission method of claim 1, further comprising in the wireless processing device the steps of:

determining that one of the plurality of canned messages has been transmitted by at least one of the plurality of wireless communication units; and

sending a broadcast message directing any of the plurality of wireless communication units that transmitted the one of the plurality of canned messages to identify themselves during a predetermined set of slotted aloha time slots on a predetermined communication channel.

6. The transmission method of claim 1, further comprising in the wireless processing device the steps of:

determining that one of the plurality of canned messages has been transmitted by at least one of the plurality of wireless communication units; and

sending a broadcast message indicating that the one of the plurality of canned messages has been received and that senders are to cease transmission unless explicitly instructed to do so by the wireless processing device.

7. The transmission method of claim 1, further comprising in one of the plurality of wireless communication units the steps of:

producing a first generation of the canned message in response to the triggering event; and

preventing a second generation of the canned message for a predetermined time period after the first generation.

8. The transmission method of claim 1, further comprising in the wireless processing device the steps of:

determining that one of the plurality of canned messages has been transmitted by at least one of the plurality of wireless communication units; and

sending a broadcast message indicating that the one of the plurality of canned messages has been received and that senders are not to initiate a newly triggered generation of the one of the plurality of canned messages until notified by the wireless processing device.

9. The transmission method of claim 1, further comprising in the wireless processing device the step of selectively controlling specific ones of the plurality of wireless communication units as to whether the specific ones are allowed to generate one of the plurality of canned messages.

10. The transmission method of claim 1,

wherein the wireless processing device is coupled to a plurality of receivers, and

wherein the transmission method further comprises in the wireless processing device the step of examining canned messages received at multiple ones of the plurality of receivers to extract additional information about the canned messages received.

11. A wireless communication unit in a wireless communication system, comprising:

a transceiver for providing communications with other wireless devices in the wireless communication system;

a processor coupled to the transceiver for processing the communications;

a memory coupled to the processor for storing operating variables and software for programming the processor;

a clock coupled to the processor for providing a time signal; and

a control interface coupled to the processor for controlling the wireless communication unit,

wherein the memory is pre-programmed with a plurality of orthogonal codes corresponding to a plurality of canned messages, the plurality of orthogonal codes chosen such

that when a group of different canned messages are received simultaneously by a wireless processing device of the wireless communication system, thereby producing an interference symbol pattern, the interference symbol pattern provides a non-zero probability of correctly decoding at least some of said group, and a substantially zero probability of erroneously decoding a canned message not in said group, and

wherein the processor is programmed to:

cooperate with the control interface to detect a triggering event that does not originate from, and is not controlled by, the wireless communication system;

select one of the plurality of canned messages as a selected message to be transmitted in response to the triggering event; and

cooperate with the transceiver to transmit one of the plurality of orthogonal codes corresponding to the selected message during a randomly-selected slotted-aloha time slot.

12. The wireless communication unit of claim 11, wherein the processor is further programmed to cooperate with the transceiver to transmit additional data along with the one of the plurality of orthogonal codes.

13. The wireless communication unit of claim 11, wherein the processor is further programmed to:

save a time-stamped record in the memory whenever the processor transmits the selected message;

receive a broadcast message directing any of a plurality of wireless communication units that transmitted the one of the plurality of canned messages to behave in a specified manner;

check the time-stamped record to determine whether the one of the plurality of canned messages was transmitted by the wireless communication unit less than a predetermined time ago; and

when the check is positive, behave in the specified manner.

14. The wireless communication unit of claim 11, wherein the processor is further programmed to:

produce a first generation of the canned message in response to the triggering event; and

prevent a second generation of the canned message for a predetermined time period after the first generation.

15. The wireless communication unit of claim 11, wherein the processor is further programmed to:

cooperate with the transceiver to receive from the wireless processing device a message for selectively controlling the wireless communication unit as to whether the wireless communication unit is allowed to generate one of the plurality of canned messages.

16. A wireless processing device in a wireless communication system for decoding a plurality of canned messages, the wireless processing device comprising:

a transceiver for receiving the plurality of canned messages; and

a processor coupled to the transceiver for processing the plurality of canned messages, wherein the plurality of canned messages are represented by a corresponding plurality of orthogonal codes chosen such that when a group of different canned messages are received simultaneously by the wireless processing device, thereby producing an interference symbol pattern, the interference symbol pattern provides a non-zero probability of correctly decoding at least some of said group, and a substantially zero probability of erroneously decoding a canned message not in said group, and

wherein the processor is programmed to:

cooperate with the transceiver to receive at least two different canned messages sent during a single time slot, the at least two different canned messages selected in response to a triggering event, thereby producing the interference symbol pattern; and

decode at least some of the at least two different canned messages from the interference symbol pattern.

17. The wireless processing device of claim 16, wherein the processor is further programmed to:

cooperate with the transceiver to receive at least two identical canned messages sent simultaneously during the single time slot, thereby producing a reinforced symbol pattern; and

decode, from the reinforced symbol pattern, one of the plurality of canned messages received.

18. The wireless processing device of claim 16, wherein the processor is further programmed to:

decode additional data received along with one of the plurality of orthogonal codes.

19. The wireless processing device of claim 16, wherein the processor is further programmed to:

cooperate with the transceiver to receive and decode one of the plurality of canned messages, and

cooperate further with the transceiver to transmit a broadcast message directing any of a plurality of wireless communication units that transmitted the one of the plurality of canned messages to behave in a specified manner.

20. The wireless processing device of claim 16, wherein the processor is further programmed to:

cooperate with the transceiver to transmit messages to selectively control specific ones of a plurality of wireless communication units as to whether the specific ones are allowed to generate one of the plurality of canned messages.

21. The wireless processing device of claim 16, further comprising

a network interface coupled to the processor and coupled to a network for communicating with the network.